

# January Newsletter



## **A Note from the Principal, Mrs. Haney**

**--plan for hybrid return; what to do if going SEO/--zoom meeting dates**

**--conferences**

**--materials fees/supply lists**

## **A Note from our Assistant Principal, Mr. Roth**

Dear Outlaw Families,

As we venture into 2021 we hope this message finds you and yours well. Considering the unique circumstances we are facing this spring, the Oregon Department of Education has submitted a waiver request for ELA, mathematics, and science assessments at the state level. Below is a brief message from the Department of Education for families.

Under the *Student Assessment Bill of Rights*, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon's school districts must provide families with a "Notice of Statewide Tests and Opt-out Form" 30 days before the start of statewide testing.

This year, school has been significantly disrupted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. In response, ODE plans to ask the United States Department of Education for a temporary pause (also known as a "waiver") in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math testing. A pause is also being requested for science testing, but science testing is not subject to this opt-out rule.

- If this waiver request is approved, then statewide ELA and Math testing will not happen this year, and there will be no need for parents to submit opt-out forms to their child's school.
- If the waiver request is not approved, test windows will open on March 4, 2021.

ODE will update Sisters School District regularly with news about the waiver. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Tim Roth at [tim.roth@ssd6.org](mailto:tim.roth@ssd6.org)

Happy New Year and.....GO OUTLAWS!

### **A message from SMS Counselor, Mr. Jackson**

Hello Outlaws!

I hope everyone found some time to relax and enjoy the holiday season. One of my favorite parts of Winter is gazing upon our snow capped mountains. While the days are slowly getting longer, we also tend to see an increase in stress and mental health concerns for students and adults alike. Mental health is just as important as physical health to monitor and we all have our struggles from time to time, it's normal. Sometimes we can push through and sometimes we need some help. Your vehicle *may* survive without that oil change for another thousand miles, but it's not advisable for the long term. A visit to the doctor will help you gauge whether that sports injury is minor or major. It's the same with your mental health. Ideally, we engage in prevention, monitor changes and seek out professional help when needed.

There are many factors that impact the mental health of our middle school students. Beginning in January the Counseling Team will teach students about stress and emotion management using the concepts from the MindsUp and Second Steps curriculum. While we cannot control many of the factors causing stress at this time, we can try to manage some of the effects. If you have concerns about your child's behaviors or mental health, please reach out and we can talk more about what you are seeing and what to do next. [Click here](#) to view some resources from Mental Health America on how to get through the hard times of winter. It is an honor to be the middle school counselor in Sisters and I am always here to help. Go Outlaws! Happy 2021!

Brook Q. Jackson

[brook.jackson@ssd6.org](mailto:brook.jackson@ssd6.org)

541-549-3195

[Click here to schedule a meeting with Mr. Jackson](#)

## A message from Nurse Roy

\*Updates \*vaccination?/exemption?

### Concussion Project



**What is the Return to School Project?** The Return to School project is a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of a return to school model of services and supports for students with concussion or brain injury. The project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The principal investigators are Ann Glang, PhD and Deanne Unruh, PhD from the University of Oregon.

<https://returntoschoolproject.org/>

**Who is involved with this study?**

School districts in Central Oregon and Southwestern Ohio are participating in the study.

**How can families get involved?**

If a student in a participating school district sustains a concussion/brain injury, we want to know about it so we can invite the student and their parent/guardian to participate in the study.

**What will participants be asked to do?**

Parents and students will be asked to answer online survey questions at set times until the student is no longer experiencing symptoms related to their concussion/brain injury. Parents and students will each receive \$50 for their participation.

**Is this mandatory?** No. Participation is voluntary. If a family decides that they do **NOT** want to participate, the decision will not affect them or their child's relationship with the school.

**Who do families contact to ask questions or enroll in the study?**

Families should contact research staff at:

[slocumbj@cbirt.org](mailto:slocumbj@cbirt.org)



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## A message from Molly Pearring, MTSS, SPED & 504 Coordinator

I-ready info for parents; other?

## A message from Mr. Schiedler, Leadership Teacher at SMS

**You can now preorder your 2020-21 Yearbook!!**

Go to [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) to purchase this year's yearbook! The cost is \$25.

School code: 14044521



**Want to purchase an 8th grade baby ad for this year's yearbook?**

Email Mr. Schiedler with pictures and a sentence/paragraph for your student. This is a great way to leave a personalized message for your student as they move on to a new phase of their life!

1/4 page ads are \$30 and 1/2 page ads are \$60.

[jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org](mailto:jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org)

### **Last Call for O-Factor Submissions!**

If your student is interested in being included in this year's virtual O-Factor, please have them email Mr. Schiedler with their submission. Any and all skills are encouraged, as long as it can be in video form. Please let me know if you have any questions. **Submissions are due by Sunday, January 17th!**

[jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org](mailto:jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org)

### **Notes from the Front Office**

Please be sure to call the front office and leave a message on the attendance line if your student will be absent even if you contact the teachers that your child will not be attending their class. Teachers can mark a student absent but not excuse their absence. That is done through the office. Call 541-549-2099 and choose option 1 to leave an attendance message.



If parents or guardians need to contact their children, please call the school office at 541-549-2099. Students **will not** have access to their cell phones during the school day.

## Plan for Returning to Hybrid & Zoom Invite Information

### Progress Reports & Conferences

Will be sent home the week of January 25th.

Conferences are targeted (teacher chosen) or by parent request on the 28th from 4-7:30 and 7:30-11:30am on the 29th. Parents who would like to request a conference need to have an email to your child's teacher by January 18th. Conferences will be in-person or via Zoom whatever is mutually agreed upon by both parties.

### ELD Services

Ms. Spencer will provide English Language Learner services on asynchronous days virtually along with push-in support on synchronous days. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Spencer at [dawna.spencer@ssd6.org](mailto:dawna.spencer@ssd6.org)

### Handbook Reminders

### New Staff

Please welcome Shelli Taylor, Shelli has been hired on as a temporary paraprofessional while another staff member is on leave for the remainder of the year. Shelli and her family have recently relocated to Sisters and she has two children at SES. Prior to arriving in Sisters, Shelli taught HS business and technology. We are thrilled to have Shelli as part of our team!

We are also happy to welcome, Jake Miles. Jake Miles is a teacher candidate that will be working with Mrs. Riehle for the second half of the year.

### Notes & Dates

January 4th: First day of school after winter break

January 18th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **NO SCHOOL**

January 19th: 6 Period Day; Students virtually attend all classes

January 28th: PM Conferences; 4:00-7:30pm

January 29th: AM Conferences; 7:30-11:30am